[Constitution as of July, 1947]

Chapter XIII. Language, Arms, Flag and Capital

191 [563] Art. 156. The state language of the Georgian SSR is Georgian. National minorities living in the territory of the Georgian SSR are guaranteed the right of free development and use of their native language both in their cultural and political institutions.

Art. 157. Laws, as well as decrees and explanatory texts of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR are published in the Georgian language, and in the Autonomous Republics and the Autonomous Region - in the Georgian language and the language of the Autonomous Republic or the Autonomous Region.

Art. 158. Laws, and likewise decrees and explanatory texts of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviets of Autonomous Republics, decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republics and decisions and orders of the Executive Committee of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the Autonomous Region are published in the language of the Autonomous Republic or the Autonomous Region and in the Georgian language.

186 Art. 159. The arms of the Georgian SSR are a round red field in the upper part of which is a five-pointed star with rays reaching out into the whole field, and in the lower part a snowy mountain range of blue colour, with gold ears of grain on the right and gold vines with grapes on the left. The gold ears and vines are intertwined at the base of the mountains in the lower part of the field. A large part of the center is occupied by a sickle and hammer of gold which reaches at the top into the shining star, at the bottom - into the peaks of the mountain ranges, and on the sides - into the ears and vines. The field is surrounded by an inscription in the Russian and Georgian languages "Workers of All Countries, United!" The arms are surrounded by a pattern of ornament in the Georgian style.

Art. 160. The flag of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is of red cloth with the inscription in gold letters in the Georgian language "Georgian SSR" in the upper left corner, within a square the sides of which are equal to one quarter of the entire width of the flag.

Art. 161. The capital of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is the City of Tbilisi.

Chapter XIV. Procedure for Amending the Constitution

642 Art. 162. The Constitution of the Georgian SSR may be amended only by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR adopted by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of the Supreme Soviet.

000 Note: This translation was made from a Russian text published by the Publishing House "Zarya Vostoka" in Tbilisi in 1947, and apparently approved by the Secretary of the Presidium on June 22, 1948.

000 Georgian show a Mingrelian substrate.
C. G. 197 Mingrelian has never been a literary language; in the schools, Georgian is the language of teaching so that in the last decades Mingrelian has notably changed in favour of a closer resemblance to Georgian. Many of the modern Georgian authors are of Mingrelian origin.

C. G. 101 c. The Laz live on the seacoast and in the valleys of the small rivers falling into the Black Sea between the towns of Khope and Atina. Only a very small part (730 persons according to the census of 1926) live in Soviet territory; the large majority live in Turkish territory (ca. 47,000 acc. to the Turkish census of 1945). All Laz speak Turkish in public and use their mother tongue only as a home language. Laz is full of Turkish loanwords; even the name Lazi which the Laz use for themselves is borrowed from Turkish. The Georgians call them Ch'ani which corresponds to Tzanoi used by Procopius. Lazike was in Roman and Byzantine times the designation not only of modern Lazistan, but also of all Western Georgia, having superseded the old Greek name of Colchis. The Laz language is in phonology almost identical with Mingrelian, but in grammar shows considerable peculiarities. It has never been written except for scientific recording.

C. G. [191]
[192]
C. G. [197]

d. The Svan (Svanetians) inhabit two valleys in the high mountain chains south of